

## Trials progress for murdered students

Hearing today to decide evidence



KYLE BORMANN

**TAYLOR MULLER**  
NEWS EDITOR

A hearing is scheduled to take place today at the Douglas County Courthouse to decide what evidence from a shooting that left a UNO student dead in her car in a drive-through lane will be used in court.

Brittany Williams was shot and killed by a single shot, fired from at least 100 yards away, investigators said, on Jan. 20.

Williams was a pre-nursing student in UNO's Goodrich Program. She was planning on enrolling at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Kyle Bormann was arrested by police after leaving the scene.

Today's hearing, at 9 a.m., will address motions to suppress evidence that were filed by Bormann's public defender, Tom Reilly.

"They're moving to suppress evidence so we can't use it during the trial," said Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine.

He said the defense was aiming to show there were issues with the search and seizure, evidence and Bormann's arrest.

"The officers who were at the scene will be testifying along with the officer that took his statement," Kleine said.

With one court battle just beginning, the appeal case of Christopher Edwards, is still on going.

Edwards was found guilty in late March 2007 of murdering UNO student Jessica O'Grady. He has since been serving his 80 to 100 years sentence in the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln.



CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS

Edwards' defense attorney, Steve Lefler, said the appeal brief had been filed in January, and that the Nebraska attorney general's office had asked to have until September to prepare a response.

Kleine, who was the lead attorney in securing Edwards' conviction, said the attorney general's office was planning on filing the response brief this week.

Lefler said the appeal was based primarily on that no medical testimony proving O'Grady had died was presented at the trial. The case is the first in Douglas County resulting in a murder conviction without a body.

"After all the briefs are done, in say November of this year, that's it," said Lefler. "Then the Supreme Court schedules it for oral argument, March '09. At oral, each side gets 20 or 30 minutes to say why they should win and then the Supreme Court releases a written decision."

Lefler said Edwards had faith in the brief and the points it raised.

"He is hopeful," Lefler said. "Certainly it's hard, but he's a strong young man."

## Upbeat life cut short by sudden death

Campus holds memorial for UNO grad student who died in Falls City

**JILLIAN WHITNEY**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Friends, family and faculty came together June 26 in the Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall at a memorial service to honor recent UNO graduate April Bishop who passed away in her residence in Falls City, Neb.

Bishop was found dead June 20 in her home in Falls City after failing to show up to a performance of "The Wizard of Oz" the day before at Omaha's Rose Theater.

After conducting an autopsy, authorities reported the death as accidental asphyxiation. According to the Omaha World Herald, Bishop had been complaining of an upset stomach the night before and was believed to have choked.

Friends of Bishop described her death as a complete surprise. Having just graduated from UNO summa cum laude in May with a bachelor of music, she had recently been hired as band director at the Falls City Middle and High School.

Bishop came to UNO with a passion for music, friends said. She was an active member in UNO's Marching Mavericks.

The UNO Athletic Bands Blog, located at [maverchingmavs2k5.blogspot.com](http://maverchingmavs2k5.blogspot.com), described April as one of its most "spirited and beloved members."

"April loved UNO, she knew this was a family, her family," said Melissa Berke, head of the UNO Music Department. "April's spirits will live in these halls forever."

Bishop worked as a student teacher during the spring, working with band classes at Millard West High School and Black Elk and Reeder Elementary Schools.

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PHOTO BY MICHELLE BISHOP

Stacy Peterson, left, and Rebecca Shively sign a Maverick Mojo promotional poster that April Bishop posed for.

## Impeachment effort collapses in Student Senate

**SCOTT STEWART**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After having its first summer meeting hijacked by calls for the impeachment of Student Government's vice president, articles of impeachment stalled with only one supporter on June 26.

Vice President Buey Ray Tut will keep his post, unless new charges are brought forth.

Three of the articles' five sponsors - Jacque Davis, Chelsea Dukes and Nathan Kirkland - were absent from the meeting.

Dukes, who brought up the issue of impeachment at the senate's meeting in May, was out of town in Valentine, Neb., attending a "bonding" event for Zeta Tau Alpha sorority recruitment. Kirkland cited family reasons for his absence, and Davis said personal reasons required her immediate attention.

Of the articles' two other sponsors, Jeff Johnson asked that his named be removed as a sponsor and Tadd Wood cast a nay vote after the debate.

"I kind of looked back and was like, 'Why did I sponsor this in the first place?' Maybe I did have my own personal feelings," Wood said. "I'm going to stand by what I believe either way."

The articles focused on Tut's absences from Student Senate sessions and Executive Council meetings, citing two absences



PHOTO BY SCOTT STEWART

Only 12 senators attended the June 26 meeting, just barely establishing quorum, the number of senators necessary to conduct business.

from each. Student Government's bylaws state that missing two Executive Council meetings was grounds for impeachment, and furthermore two Student Senate sessions were the equivalent of one Executive Council meeting.

Chief Administrative Office Matt Nelson, who authored the articles of impeachment, said the dates cited were the only documented absences, but that some meeting minutes were missing.

After the meeting, Tut confirmed that he actually had three absences from each group. He said four of the absences had to do with forensics events, one for taking an exam because of a

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## your gateway to the university of nebraska at omaha

### Wind storm causes power outages

A devastating thunderstorm came through the metro area on June 27. See inside for photos of the damage.

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### Trendy stores setup shop

Sephora opened its door last month at Village Pointe, joining several new area businesses and chains.

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Swimmers from across the country came to Omaha following the CWS for a chance to go for the gold.

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### 'Much Ado' in Elmwood

Shakespeare on the Green returned to Elmwood Park for another great production of a comedy and a tragedy.

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# Remembrances keep rolling in from fans of political journalist Tim Russert

BY JONATHAN STORM  
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PHILADELPHIA (MCT) — NBC's Tim Russert, 58, perhaps the most widely respected newsmen in all of television, collapsed and died of a heart attack while at work in Washington the afternoon of July 11.

Russert, a senior vice president at NBC, was the network's Washington bureau chief and had been moderator of "Meet the Press" for more than 16 years.

Virtually every major American political figure since 1992 had weathered his intense questioning, and he had been an imposing NBC presence on dozens of election nights, where his whiteboard and scrawled explanatory numbers became a TV institution.

Remembrances rolled in from all quarters, from President Bush to Barbara Walters to the thousands of nobodies who posted on MS-NBC's message boards.

On Fox News, Chris Wallace put Russert's place in perspective: "He was the king in Washington. He was the most important, influential reporter in Washington."

"Tim will be sorely missed," said Pennsylvania's senior senator, Arlen Specter, who averaged an appearance a year on the political talk show that had the highest ratings and made the most news, and where appearances were a badge of honor no matter how uncomfortable the outcome.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Russert had a degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and was chief of staff to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., and counselor in New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's office before joining NBC in 1984.

"His years as a Senate staffer and probing TV journalist gave him special insights on political and governmental issues," Specter said.

Russert's whiteboard from election night 2000, when the analyst repeated, "Florida, Florida, Florida," is in the Smithsonian Institution. Even if other reporters could not get the tally right, "TV Guide" named that scene one of the 100 greatest moments in TV history. He is also credited with coining the red state/blue state designations for characterizing electoral politics, and this year, "Time" magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world. No other journalist of any stripe made the list.

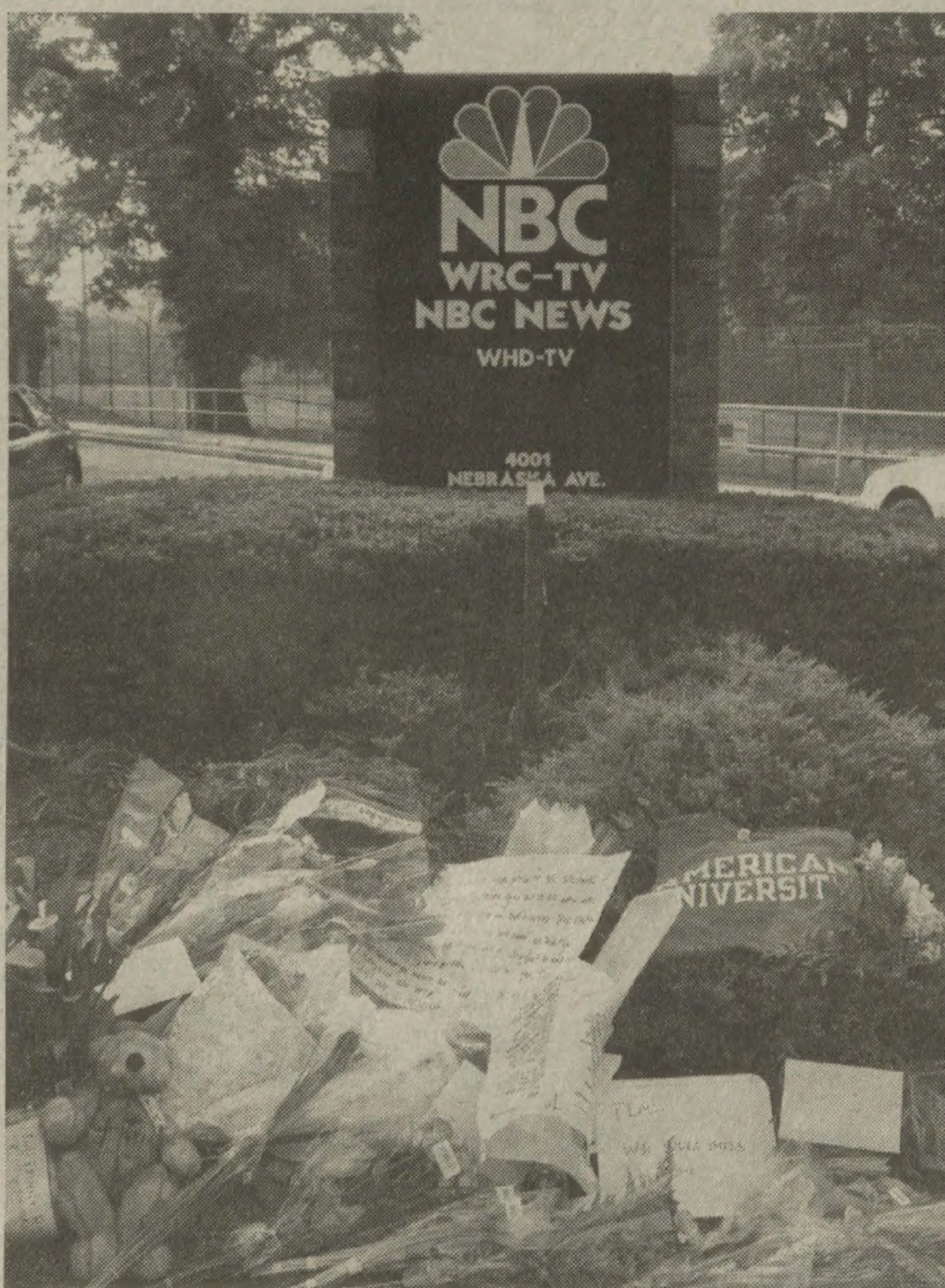
"The country will be in deep mourning," ABC's Barbara Walters said on competitor MS-NBC, "and there aren't too many journalists they're [ever] going to be in mourning for."

When Russert started at "Meet the Press," which at 60 years is the longest-running show in TV history, it was second in ratings to ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley." But Russert slowly guided it into first place. For the 2007-08 TV season, it has averaged nearly 70 percent more viewers than the 2.7 million or so each week who watch "This Week" and CBS's "Face the Nation."

A bluff rumple magnet, Russert had none of the slick reserve that characterizes most TV newsmen. But his powerful analytical decisiveness was unmatched.

"We now know who the Democratic nominee's going to be, and no one's going to dispute it," he said on MS-NBC on May 6 after the Indiana and North Carolina primaries.

His declaring Sen. Barack Obama the winner made news, even if it made Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign apoplectic. Unlike the back-and-forth Florida tallies put forth by his colleagues in 2000, it was absolutely correct.



COURTESY D.B. KING / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Mourners lay flowers at NBC affiliate WRC, located in Washington, D.C.

On Friday, Clinton and her husband issued a statement that said, in part: "In seeking answers to tough questions, he helped inform the American people and make our democracy stronger."

The presumptive presidential nominees also had kind words. "The pre-eminent political journalist of his generation," said Sen. John McCain. Obama called Russert "somebody who cared about America, cared about the issues, cared about family."

In a statement, the president said he and Laura Bush were "deeply saddened" by Russert's death. "He was always well-informed and thorough in his interviews. And he was as gregarious off the set as he was prepared on it."

## Salmonella worries still present locally

MARK PATEL  
CONTRIBUTOR

Despite not being associated with an outbreak of salmonella, Nebraska still felt the effects, as local stores and restaurants reacted by ceasing to serve tomatoes.

Initially reported as the source of the outbreak, tomatoes were believed to be responsible for causing more than 900 reported cases. Salmonella is a bacterium that is spread when infected animal feces come into contact with food.

Marcia Adler, director of Student Health Services, said that while Nebraska did not have any reported cases, fresh produce and fruits should be handled carefully and rinsed thoroughly before eating.

The initial source of the outbreak remains unknown to government officials, according to an FDA statement released on July 1. The investigation has been expanded to include produce items commonly associated with tomatoes such as peppers.

The Food and Drug Administration recommended only consuming raw red plum, red Roma or red round tomatoes if grown and harvested from areas not associated with the outbreak.

UNO's Food Services adjusted to the warning by switching to cherry tomatoes because they "haven't been linked to the outbreak" said Chris Bueche, manager of the Criss Library Cafe, which is supplied by Food Services.

The investigation was carried out partially by conducting interviews with sickened people, and relatives and friends who are not sick. During the early stages of the investigation, the blame for the salmonella illnesses was placed on tainted tomatoes because people with the sickness were more likely to have consumed tomatoes, as compared to people who were not sick.

"When CDC and the states conduct a food borne outbreak investigation, it's like a detective trying to solve a case" said Robert Tauxe in a Center for Disease Control press statement.

Former NBC News president Lawrence Grossman, who hired Russert, Friday told the New York Times that Russert "saved 'Meet the Press,' which had been in big trouble."

In the heat of that rescue, in a 1995 interview with The Philadelphia Inquirer, Russert said he spent eight to 10 hours preparing to question each guest. If the answers don't make sense, he said, "I'll stay with it. That's where the information base kicks in. But this is the big leagues. If you can't answer a tough question, you can't make a tough decision."

Strikingly, while politicians and newshounds remembered Russert's skills, many also remembered the man more fondly, a devout Roman Catholic, devoted to his wife, "Vanity Fair" writer Maureen Orth, and his son, Luke. Russert had just returned from a trip to Italy to celebrate Luke's graduation from Boston College.

"A lot of us ... have been through a lot together," said Andrea Mitchell, NBC News chief foreign-affairs correspondent. On MSNBC, she said: "We've been through assassinations and attacks on our country and anthrax and loss and illness and all kinds of crises, and there was always one reliable person in our lives."

"People change at the network, and people change in the front office, but there has always been one Tim."

Jonathan Storm is the Philadelphia Inquirer's television critic. Philadelphia Inquirer staff writers Larry Eichel, Thomas Fitzgerald and Gail Shister contributed to this report.

## Getting a Perspective

Several members of UNO's Public Relations Student Society of America had a chance to hear Tim Russert speak during a conference in Philadelphia in October.

The experience was thrilling and down to earth, said Katie Dowd, then-president of PRSSA.

"It was truly different than what you thought it would have been," Dowd said. "He was almost talking to us like a father talking to his children."

PRSSA faculty adviser Karen Weber said Russert was truly a fair and balanced journalist.

"He talked about the election, about how the public is tired of candidates who don't deliver what they promise and then at the end he talked about his son Luke, saying that he went away to college, [and how he told him] you need to be a man of integrity and then laugh a lot," Weber said.

Russert's death left a void at NBC as well, where he anchored a regular Sunday show, "Meet the Press."

"It was really hard when I heard that, because he's that honest and genuine," Dowd said. "It's going to be a hard place to fill."

- Taylor Muller

## Crime Log

COMPILED BY  
SCOTT STEWART  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Friday, June 13

**5:47 p.m.** Student reported the theft of personal property from the men's locker room in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. Incident occurred between 4 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24

**4:46 p.m.** Campus Security responded to a call of a suspicious person at Scott Village. Suspect was identified and then banned and barred from the property.

Thursday, June 26

**10:30 a.m.** Staff member reported the theft of university property from the Sapp Field House. Incident occurred between 9:25 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

**2:30 p.m.** Student reported the theft of personal property from Durham Science Center. Incident occurred between 10 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

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# Unusual plagiarism: Student graduation speeches similar to YouTube standouts

BY SHARON NOGUCHI  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif. (MCT) — Student Body President Mohammed Abid was searching for a last-minute metaphor to grab attention at the Palo Alto High School graduation. He found a hilarious one, comparing applying to college to proposing marriage ... and it was a hit at commencement June 11.

And, as a YouTube.com video clearly shows, the metaphor was also a hit when Lance Jabr told it a week earlier at Mountain View (Calif.) High's graduation.

It was the second apparently borrowed speech during Palo Alto's graduation celebrations. Just days earlier, senior Malini Veerappan compared life's lessons to deciding what to order at the Cheese House, a popular sandwich shop across the street from school. Swap "Chipotle" for "Cheese House" and it bore a remarkable resemblance to a graduation speech made two years ago in Maryland.

Soon new graduates joined an online debate over the apparent plagiarism by the two speakers, both of whom were honored with awards at graduation.

Abid, 18, who saw Jabr's speech on YouTube before delivering his own, said he immediately apologized, calling Jeffrey Herman, who co-wrote the Mountain View speech, and posting an online explanation.

"I just procrastinated," said Abid. "Clearly I made a mistake," he said, adding that most of his speech was original.

Veerappan could not be reached for comment.

With the explosive growth of the Web, plagiarism has become a growing concern among educators.

"The massive availability of information on the Web contributes to the idea that information is out there to be used," said Katie Povejsil, vice-president of marketing for iParadigms, which runs the anti-plagiarism service Turnitin.com. "Because it's so easy to grab something off the Web, people don't think this requires proper citation."

Palo Alto grad Andre Keiser said he came across the similar speeches while surfing the Web for funny videos. So he started a Facebook page, with links to the YouTube clips, and nearly one-third the 400-plus students in the Class of 2008 soon signed up to view it and debate it.

"I thought people should be able to know what happened," said Keiser, 18. Most people, he said, thought the resemblance was funny.

Superintendent Kevin Skelly, a former high school principal, said he was disappointed to hear about the cases.

"You count on kids to be honest for something as personal as a graduation speech."

Since the students have graduated, there's little the district can do.

But the debate over what's plagiarism and what's legitimate research and borrowing isn't always clear. Abid insists he was forthright in saying the metaphor was borrowed, although at graduation he said "from a teacher" and not "from YouTube."

As student body president, tradition entitled Abid to address the graduates. Six more applied for the three remaining speaker spots.

The student-teacher committee didn't check the speeches for plagiarism, and didn't even see final drafts until a day before the ceremony. During the school year, Palo Alto teachers often ask students to submit essays to Turnitin.com, which checks for originality against a data base of Web postings and previous student papers.

But even if the speech committee had, they likely wouldn't have found any duplication because Turnitin.com, has no way of checking YouTube.

Next year, selection committee member Bowen Wang said, "I would probably advise them to check the speeches before selecting them."

Wang, who just graduated, last week saw the YouTube

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videos of the original speeches and felt Abid and Veerappan had properly modified their versions. "Most people have totally blown this out of proportion."

Stanford University, where Abid has been accepted in the fall, would not comment.

Keiser thinks the flap has blown by, and it's time to close the debate on the Facebook group. "I'll probably take it down, now that people know."

From **SENATE**: Page 1

class absence for forensics and one to attend presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's rally at the Civic Auditorium on Feb. 7.

Tut is also one of four students on academic scholarships from UNO Forensics, said coach Abbie Farrens Syrek, who spoke during public forum to clarify Tut's absences.

This year, Tut placed in the top 12 for persuasive presentations in the American Forensic Association's National Individual Events Tournament at the University of Texas at Austin.

"What I think is important is allowing students to participate in our university as wholeheartedly as he or she can and is able to," Syrek said afterwards. "If we have a student who is on Student Senate and that is also in band, football, forensics — I would hope that those wouldn't work against each other and that they could allow the student to develop his or her skills not only for that individual's sake but to give back to both programs that they might be involved in."

Syrek said she had personally rearranged practice sessions for Tut during the campaign season and had excused absences related to Tut's philanthropy work with Aqua-Africa, a group co-founded by Tut that works to bring safe drinking water to people in Sudan and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as other organizations.

Tut said he "fell victim to circumstances," citing philosophers Thomas Hobbs, John Locke and Martin Luther while advocating reforming the senate's flawed attendance policy rather than enforcing them.

Senators who voiced opposition to the impeachment cited several similar arguments: that the impeachment should not be done in the summer, that non-attendance issues should be included in the articles if they're the reason for impeachment, that the sponsors were mostly themselves absent and that not excusing the

absences would be unfair.

"If the senate, if they want to keep him, that's why we have that process," Dukes said. "I really, really hope that this experience is good for him."

In addition to attendance, some senators — like Dukes — had raised questions about Tut's performance and his appointment of Sen. Luke Hoffman, a personal acquaintance of Tut, at the May meeting.

Hoffman abstained in the 10-1-1 decision to reject the impeachment. Speaker Dayton Headlee cast the sole yea vote.

"I did what I thought was right and in the best interest of Student Government," Headlee said.

Nelson and Headlee both said articles of impeachment could be resubmitted. Any new articles would also require passage by the Rules Committee as well as two-thirds majority support from the senate to be enacted.

Just like the impeachment of a U.S. official like President Clinton, an impeached executive officer of Student Government would not immediately be removed from office. The Student Court would then try the impeached official unless the official resigned.

Tut said he was impressed with how the senators thought about the situation and his character, and he said he applauded Student Government for moving forward.

"I don't do anything that would misrepresent UNO," Tut said, "because I embody UNO. That's what I want to put forth in the community, not just Student Government. It's not like I come here at seven o'clock and leave here at nine and I forget about student government the rest of the day."

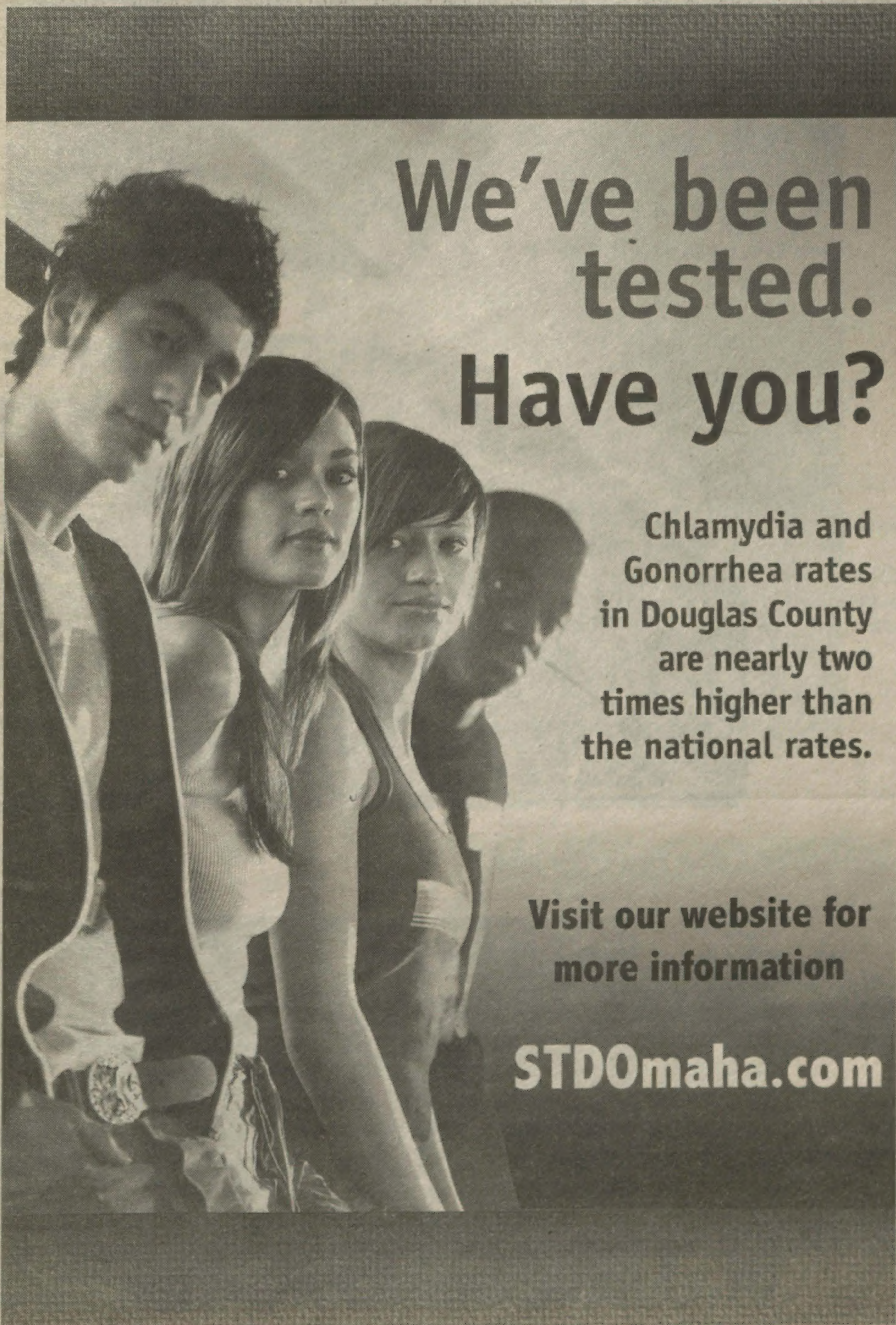
Student Senate's next meeting will be on July 31 at 7 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center, with committees meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the student government offices.

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# Wind storm cuts power to city, campus

SCOTT STEWART  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

About 126,000 Omaha Public Power District customers lost power across the metropolitan area on June 27 following a storm with strong winds and hail.

According to a statement, the storm's damage was the worst in OPPD's history.

"Progress is never fast enough when your lights are out, and we understand that," said OPPD President Gar Gates in a statement.

Director of University Affairs Tim Kaldahl said he was distributing centennial celebration materials in Memorial Park that afternoon.

Kaldahl said he took shelter in the parking structure on the Dodge Street Campus.

"I'm glad the buildings were open and available for the people from the park to come over here," Kaldahl said.

The campus sustained minimal damage in the storm, with only tree, water and power issues really impacting operations, Kaldahl said.

Power went out on campus until the next day, however, including for

the residents of Scott Village. Residents there were notified of the storm through a public address system installed last summer, said Building I resident Aaron Peterson.

Peterson said SV residents took shelter in the Commons Building, although some students - Peterson included - had to run through hail to take shelter.

A text alert from the e2campus emergency alert system also, errantly, notified subscribers of a tornado warning for the campus at 5 p.m.

While there were no tornadoes associated with the storm, gusts in excess of 110 mph in the country and in excess of 70 mph in the city were the equivalent of an EF-1 or EF-2 tornado on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

Kaldahl said the only UNO program impacted by the storm was the Child Care Center, which relocated to the Milo Bail Student Center for June 30 and July 1.

The Child Care Center, along with the William H. Thompson Alumni Center, is located on a different circuit from most of the Dodge Street Campus.

PHOTO COURTESY MOLLY CHESTNUT



The sign of Beverly Hills Plaza, near 78th Street and West Dodge Road, was destroyed in the June 27 wind storm.



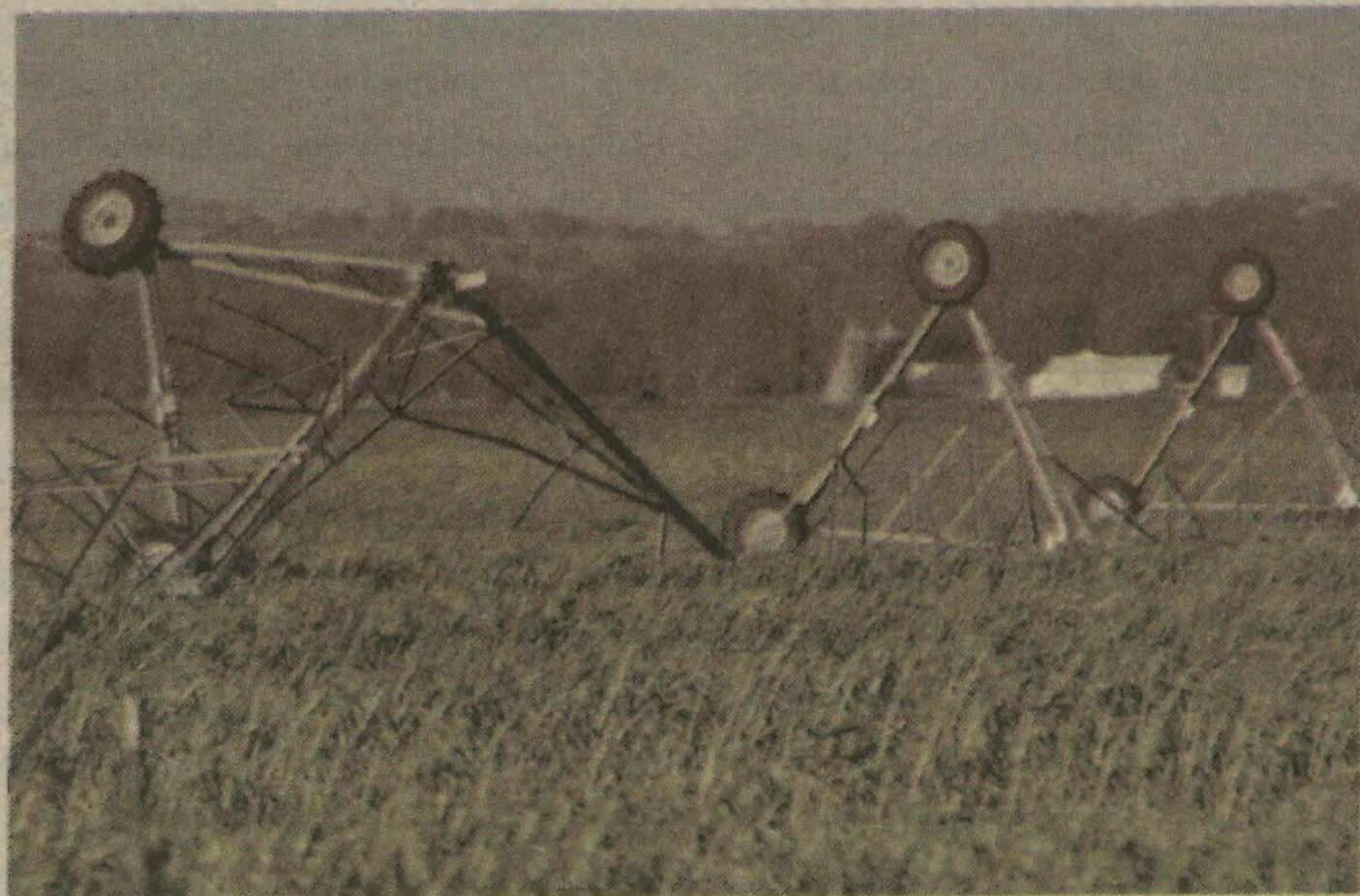
PHOTO BY VALERIE LOSEKE

Trailers were blown over near Valley, Neb.



Already plagued by this summer's floods and perpetual drought conditions, farmers near Valley, Neb., had buildings and equipment destroyed by June 27's wind storm.

PHOTOS BY VALERIE LOSEKE



A center-pivot irrigation system was in pieces following the 110 mph gusts on June 27.

A Loop Power District crew worked near 132nd Street and West Maple Road on June 28.



PHOTOS COURTESY OPPD

A power pole smashed into a car near 132nd Street and West Center Road on June 27.



PHOTO COURTESY ALI OLANDER

Trees fell on streets, homes and vehicles across the city.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT STEWART



Downed trees in Elmwood Park were among the countless trees damaged in the June 27 storm.



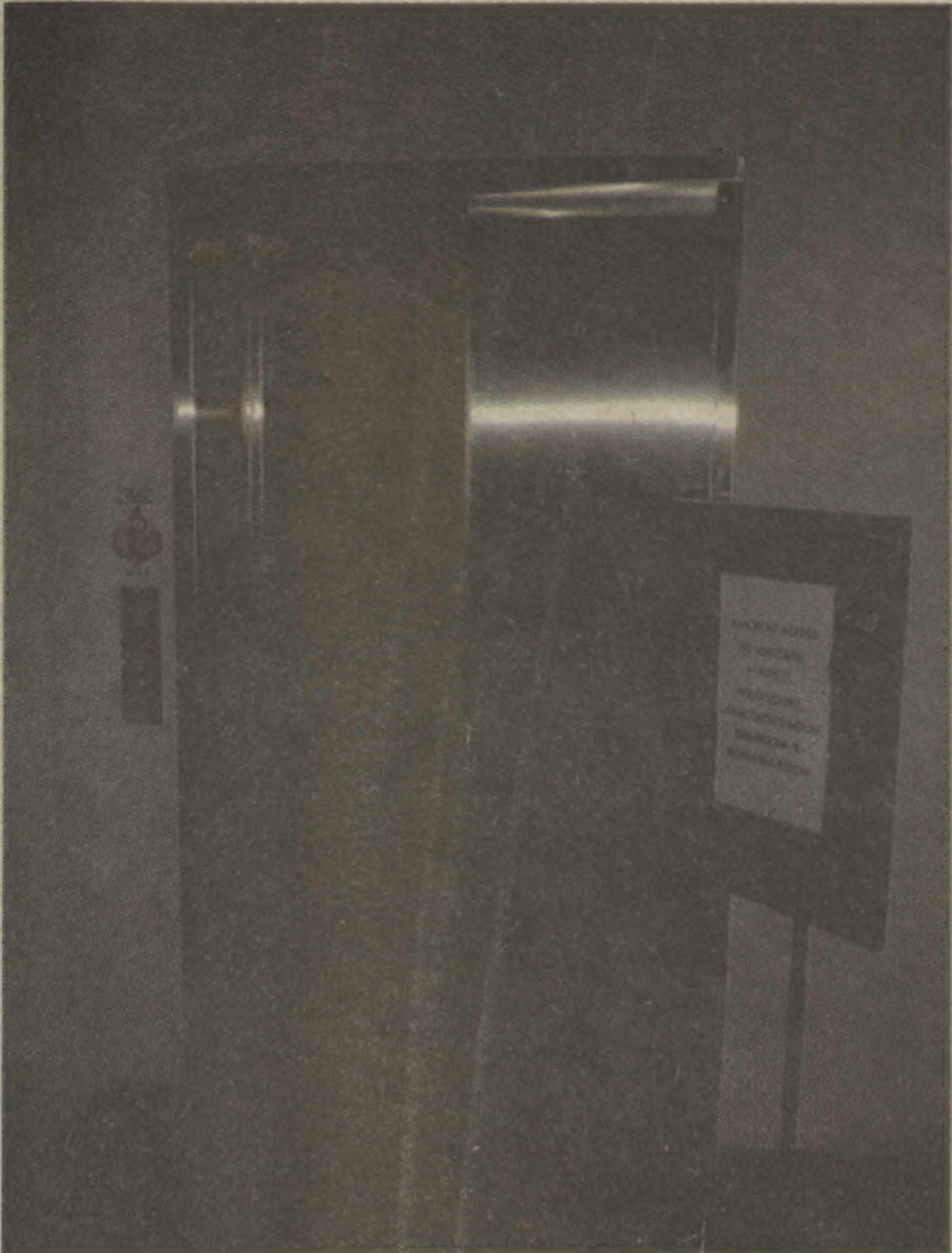


PHOTO BY SCOTT STEWART

Power went out across campus, including in the Milo Bail Student Center, where the east elevator lost power while its door was ajar. Power was restored the following afternoon for most of the campus, although the Child Care Center and other buildings went without power for a few days.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE BISHOP

The June 27 wind storm hit the Qwest Center, taking with it a piece of the building's ceiling, while swimmers practiced for the upcoming Olympic Trials inside. See pg. 8 for photos from the trials held last week.



PHOTO BY SCOTT STEWART

Hail accompanied strong winds on June 27, with these hailstones accumulated near the entrance of the Milo Bail Student Center.



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP

People work to remove debris that fell from the ceiling of the Qwest Center on June 27. The Qwest Center was one of the central hubs of activity that afternoon, as swimmers were preparing for the Olympic Trials last week.



PHOTO BY ANDREA BARBE



Located near 102nd Street and West Maple Road, a large tree collapsed into the street and residents surveyed the damage done by the June 27 thunderstorm.



## New, trendy stores now in town because of local shopping boom

JUDY RYDBERG  
CONTRIBUTOR

The job and housing markets may be in a slump, but one local exchange keeps expanding. Over the past year, Omaha's shopping has exploded with chain stores that the area has never seen before with several areas around town receiving a piece of the action.

Urban Outfitters, located in the Saddle Creek complex just north of downtown, opened last October and has been a fixture for many college-age students. It offers an "eclectic mix of fashion merchandise for well-educated, urban-minded young adults," according to the store's Web site.



Sephora opened its doors on June 20 at the Village Pointe shopping center located near 156th and Dodge streets.

American Apparel, another popular national retailer, will soon open next door.

Other shops like Delia's and Forever 21 have already made their mark at Westroads Mall. Both opened within the past few months and have watched their customer base grow.

Meanwhile, major online stores are setting up shop out west. Sephora, the self-proclaimed "beauty authority," just arrived at the Village Pointe shopping center on June 20.

"Omaha has been starting to get a lot more of the up-and-coming trendy stores, like Sephora and Forever 21," said Mandy Palik, co-manager of Delia's. "I think that they decided now would be a really good time to capitalize on that, and be one of the new ones."

She said Delia's has been doing all they can to milk Omaha's shopping boom and are using multiple techniques to get people in the door.

"Our window displays attract people, but we also have a lot of word of mouth just because Delia's was so big with magazines and on the Internet," Palik said. "Plus, we're getting all new merchandise in the store on July 7."

Palik said Delia's caters to everyone from "twens" –

youth ages 11 to 14 – to college students, but that they pride themselves on customer service.

"I think a lot of stores go for that stand-off approach," Palik said. "To keep people coming back, we really try to give people individual attention and help them out."

Sephora specialist Brenda Carroll agrees that personal service is key.

"We have simply the best customer service," Carroll said. "We have a point system called beauty insider. For every \$100 you spend, you receive a free deluxe sample. In addition, you receive a free gift on your birthday."

If discounts and freebies are not enough to encourage customer loyalty, she said the product variety would make customers' jaws drop.

"Having 250 different brands in one-stop shopping is very unique," Carroll said. "We have products that you can't get at department stores, such as Smashbox cosmetics and Ojon hair products."

She said business has been great and people are excited about having Sephora in Omaha.

"Omaha has needed something like this. Before, the closest stores were Chicago, Vegas or Kansas City," Carroll said. "The outpour from clients has just been amazing. They've been waiting for a long time for us to come to Omaha."

Even given Sephora's popularity, Forever 21 also seems to be a favorite with UNO students. Psychology major Laura Aust said she

loves shopping at Forever 21, because it is stylish and inexpensive.

"I dare anyone to try to buy an outfit there for more than \$20," Aust said. "I had been to the store in different cities and I was so excited when it finally opened here."

Jamie Leeper, an education major, also shares Aust's love of Forever 21 but praised the variety.

"They have all different styles, from sporty to nice 'going out' clothes," she said. "Plus, they always have every size and clothes are available in multiple colors."

This variety is made possible by the sheer size of the 7,800-square-foot store.

"Forever 21 is different from other stores in Omaha, because it is huge," Leeper said. "I seriously think I could spend all day there and still not see every item in the store. It's really nice to have somewhere new to go."

With Omaha's shopping boom in full swing, Leeper, like other locals, wonder which retailers are coming to the area next.

"It makes me very excited that Omaha is growing," Leeper said. "I have been here my whole life and to see it expanding is fun. It just makes Omaha a better place."

## Bemis art festival a great success for local talent

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM  
CONTRIBUTOR

UNO dance students celebrated the power and poetry of the human form at the Bemis Creativity Festival in late June.

The festival, held in conjunction with the Summer Arts Festival downtown, drew a crowd of about 1,200 people to the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. This event allowed artists skilled in theater, photography, modern dance and other artistic styles to show off their work.

"We reached out to over 50 community organizations to submit proposals to be involved in the festival," said Andrew Hershey, media director for the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. "These groups were from a wide range of genres in order to explore the creative process as fully as possible."

The mission of the Bemis Center is to promote talent while focusing on the connection between presentation and the creative process, Hershey said.

"We do this through all of our programming from the artists-in-residence program to our public art projects," Hershey said. "The festival is continuing that mission by bringing the community together through innovative programming to demonstrate that a creative community starts with the spark of an individual's imagination."

The three day celebration kicked off on June 26 with a modernized jazz performance called "Genesis 1E" by Euphoria.

While there were many artist exhibits and shows, only three major exhibits were presented continuously from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.: "Midwestern Voices & Visions," a show by seven Joyce Foundation Fellowship award-winners; Therman Statom's "Nascita" and the Bemis Underground show "The Nest Egg."

UNO's own professors played a huge part in the festival. The UNO Percussion Ensemble, organized by music composition

See **BEMIS**: Page 7

## More to Carlin than seven 'dirty' words

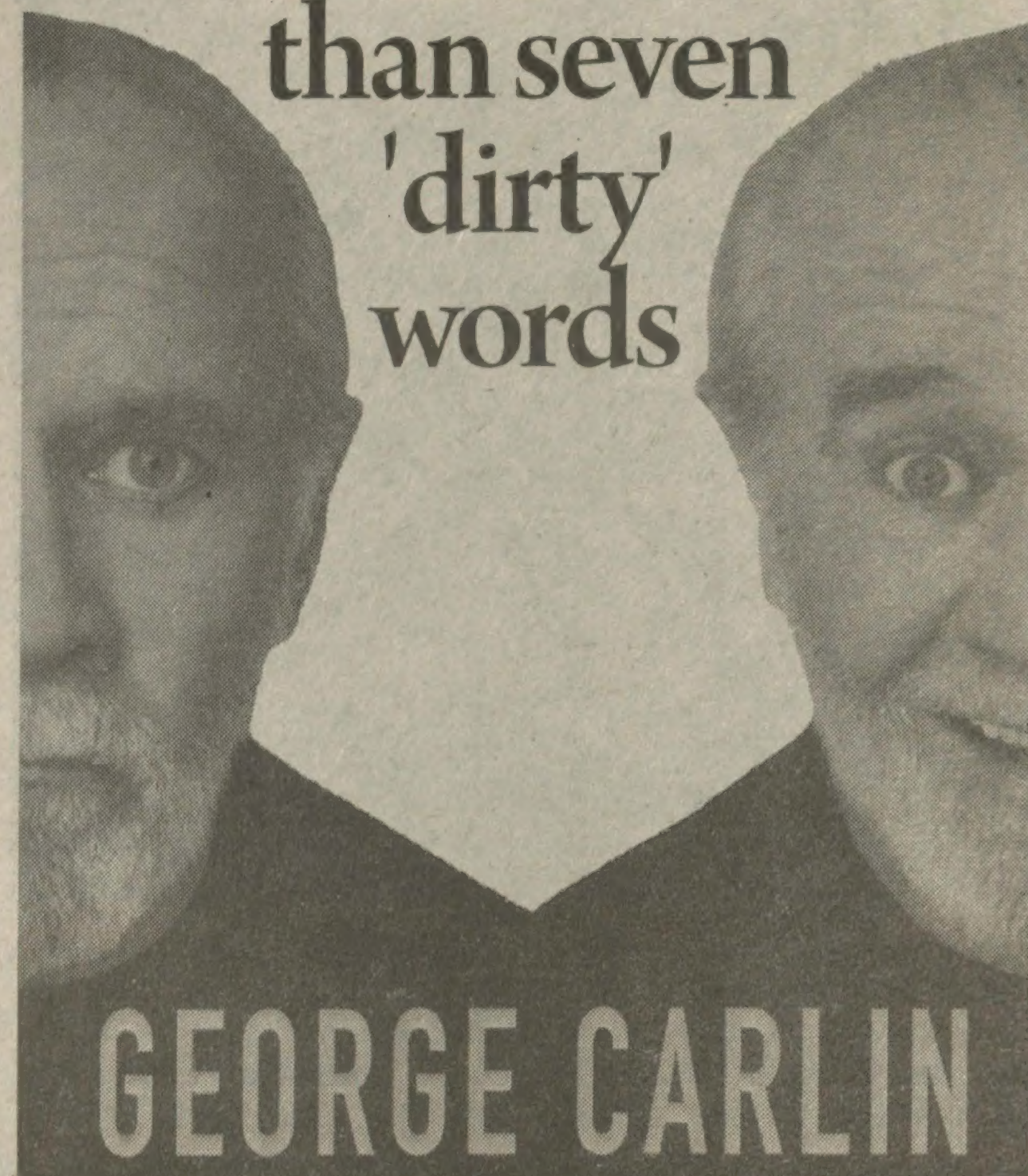


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PAMELA BOUTERSE

Comedian George Carlin died at the age of 71 of heart failure on June 22.

By MARK CARO AND GLENN JEFFERS  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO (MCT) – On July 21, 1972, comic George Carlin was arrested at Milwaukee's Summerfest for a routine in which he uttered seven unutterable words. That the routine's whole point was to ridicule such language taboos made little difference to those slapping the cuffs on him for violating obscenity laws.

That case eventually was dismissed, but Carlin's impact on language and culture persists to this day. When Carlin died on June 22 of heart failure at age 71, he left behind a society still struggling to agree on what forms of public expression should be allowed.

Yet over the past few decades, society hasn't exactly moved in a straight line regarding what it finds acceptable. Words such as "sucks" have gone mainstream – it's even in the animated "Kung Fu Panda" – and Comedy Central's "South Park" devoted a 2001 episode to a one of Carlin's seven words being repeated 162 times.

At the same time, other words have become even more loaded. Black comedian-turned-activist Dick Gregory's 1964 autobiography, which sold 7 million copies, was titled "Nigger," yet when rapper Nas wanted to give his upcoming CD that same title, the outcry was such that he had to change it to a to-be-announced alternative.

In the wake of Janet Jackson's breast-baring "wardrobe malfunction" at the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show, the Federal Communications Commission increased fines against networks violating decency standards, and the networks grew more cautious. At last September's Emmy Awards, the Fox network silenced Sally Field's acceptance speech so audiences wouldn't hear her say, "If the mothers ruled the world, there would be no goddamned wars in the first place." (And, no, that wasn't one of Carlin's seven words.)

Michael Powell, the former FCC chairman (and Colin Powell's son) who was enforcing those big fines around the time of the Super Bowl scandal, said he thinks popular culture has wavered on such issues since Carlin first unleashed his profanity riff.

"I think since he did it, there have been periods of greater permissiveness – on the part of the citizenry and government regulations – and there have been periods where it has swung back to the notion of some higher level of propriety in broadcast television," Powell said, noting that he thinks the country still is pushing back against previous permissiveness.

But for someone who became a catalyst for a change in public perceptions, Carlin started out like many comedians in the early '60s, with a skinny tie, suit and a clean act, featured regularly on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "The Tonight Show." In 1962 Carlin found himself in Chicago watching Lenny Bruce, the original shock comic, get arrested for a drug joke. After mouthing off to one of the officers, Carlin joined him in the paddy wagon.

This encounter made an impact on the younger comedian. Toward the end of the decade, Carlin changed his routine. He stopped shaving and let his hair grow long. He used the word "ass" onstage, which got him fired from a Las Vegas hotel.

See **CARLIN**: Page 8



# Now Playing

## The Gateway's take on current cinema

### HANCOCK

MIKE BELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

This summer, we've seen plenty of heroes appear for the first time — or, in some cases, the sixth time — on the silver screen.

The problem, however, is we know what to expect. Fans of either comic books or Saturday morning cartoons know that Spiderman's Uncle Ben dies or that Superman's weakness is kryptonite.

However, "Hancock" is an original superhero film with no back story in a sea of repeats. I was keenly interested.

Will Smith plays John Hancock, the world's only known superhero. Taking place in Los Angeles, Hancock tries his best to stop crime and save lives, but his ability to control his flight and words are crippled by several bottles of bourbon that never seem too far away. The premise of a homeless, drunk "superman" brought about plenty of laughs as Hancock constantly blows through buildings and cars as if they were made of wet cardboard.

Unfortunately, "Hancock" is one of those movies that by the first 20 minutes, you've seen all the funny parts twice, because they were in the trailer.

The story then takes a dramatic turn with the sudden spark of romance between Hancock and Mary (Charlize Theron).

Unfortunately, Mary happens to be the married to Ray (Jason Bateman). Ray has volunteered to be Hancock's public relations manager so that the city doesn't vehemently boo Hancock every time he stops to help someone.

The movie started to turn for the worse when it explains his origin while leaving plenty of gaps in the storyline. Had they left Hancock as a reckless yet humorous superhero, it would have been a much more enjoyable tale.

"Hancock" wasn't particularly bad, but not very good either. Fun for the first half hour, then the twist comes and it's all downhill from there.



## 'Much Ado' about annual Shakespeare tradition

REVIEW BY  
MIKE BELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

This year's Shakespeare on the Green brought the entire range of human emotions — from jovial, and sometimes juvenile, jokes to the dark, desperate decent into madness.

The Shakespearean comedy "Much Ado about Nothing," was the first of the two plays brought to life just off the UNO campus in Elmwood Park.

The play opens in Italy during the late nineteenth century. Claudio, a soldier returning from a small border skirmish, meets and falls desperately in love with the governor's daughter Hero.

The story becomes a tale overflowing with bumbling comedy, sharp wit and deadly misunderstandings.

The background was a set of Roman arches with vines crawling up the walls and a series of statues of a man and woman covered in verdigris.

The first pair, furthest apart, show both of them in the throes of despair; in the second set, they seem to be looking out, discovering one another. And the final statue displays them in



PHOTO BY BILL WENDL

A slacker gets recruited into a fraternity with promises of excitement, pretty girls and vodka. That is the plot of the R-rated action movie "Wanted" starring Morgan Freeman, Angelina Jolie and James McAvoy.

Except this group is the "fraternity of assassins," and their idea of hazing consists of gun battles, car chases, dangling passenger trains off cliffs and impaling people in slaughterhouses.

Once Wesley (McAvoy) is initiated into the fraternity, he learns how to focus his "panic attacks" into seeing 400 times faster than normal people and changes the course of bullets with his mind. These talents are used to uphold the fraternity's code of "killing one to save a thousand."

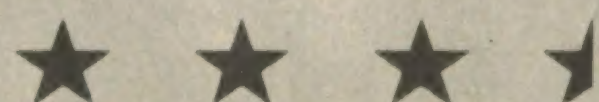
Numerous plot twists make the movie entertaining but blatantly unoriginal. Twists are taken almost scene-for-scene from better known movies like "The Matrix," "Karate Kid," "Star Wars" and even "Office Space."

The special effects are mildly impressive. Action sequences are shown in slow-motion so the audience can see every last spatter of blood.

Many scenes also rewind so that viewers can see victims before they are killed, with the bullets traveling back into the gun. This is cool in the first rooftop shooting scene but by the end, it seems like Hollywood is just trying to lengthen the movie without shooting more footage.

Angelina Jolie fans may be disappointed. Ad campaigns lead audiences to believe she is the star of the film. On the contrary, she plays a mere sidekick to the film's two main characters, played by Freeman and McAvoy. Jolie's part could have been cut out entirely with a few simple script tweaks.

Overall, "Wanted" is interesting but not groundbreaking or memorable in any way. It is good, but not excellent; it's just another summer action flick.



### GET SMART

MIKE BELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

Secret trapdoors in a telephone booth? Check.

Swiss army knife equipped with crossbow bolt and flamethrower? Check.

Cameo by Bill Murray? Oh, yeah.

Hilarious and action-packed, "Get Smart" is based on the 1970s TV series of the same name.

Steve Carell plays Maxwell Smart, who for years has been an intelligence researcher for C.O.N.T.R.O.L., a super secret defense agency that combats KAOS, another group that threatens to destroy the world.

Smart has finally passed the test to become a field agent (eight times is a charm) and believes he is ready to save the world. The only thing that stands in his way is eight-foot-tall body guards, a Russian donut factory and terrible luck.

Also starring is Anne Hathaway as Agent 99. Beautiful, calm and deadly, she clashes with Smart's eagerness and helps him understand that the world does not work "by the book."

Dwayne Johnson (he's still "The Rock" to me) plays the macho Agent 23, who fulfills every James Bond stereotype, withholding the British aspect.

After the C.O.N.T.R.O.L. headquarters are destroyed by KAOS, Smart is promoted to field agent No. 86, despite his lack of experience. Teaming up with Agent 99, the pair travels to Russia to uncover a plot involving a nuclear bomb and holds the U.S. west coast for ransom.

"Get Smart" was much funnier and satisfying than I had expected. I cannot remember more than a minute going by without me laughing.

This movie also had the greatest kissing scene in all of cinema. You'll know which one I mean.

It's definitely worth checking out. But, unfortunately, I have to knock off a star for the use of a Chuck Norris joke.



From **BISHOP**: Page 1

Bishop was also an active member in UNO's Goodrich Program.

"April was one of our very best scholars. She was the type of student you just love to have in class," said Jerry Cederblom, chair of the Goodrich Program. "I can't think of a time I didn't see her in an upbeat mood."

Ashley Pettengill, a former UNO student and close friend to Bishop, described her as unique and special.

"April was one of the first people I met at UNO. She was amazing. She was uniquely herself. There never was a person like her, and I doubt there ever will be again," Pettengill said. "She would give you the shirt off her back in the middle of winter and she wouldn't complain. As long as you were fine, she was fine."

A candlelight vigil was held at UNO on June 23 and funeral services on June 24 at Roby Funeral Home in Plattsmouth, Neb.

Screw Dorothy, there's a tornado!



each others arms, content at last.

The acting was incredible, the stage brought about a sense of immersion and the crowd was laughing hard from start to finish.

I was afraid I wouldn't understand the comedy, because I'm not a big fan of Shakespeare. But, even if I didn't understand every pun or play on words, there was enough people falling and tripping on things to let me have a good time.

The second play presented as part of this year's Nebraska Shakespeare Festival was "King Lear," a tragedy about a man's misjudgment of his family and his descent into the mouth of madness.

The play is a stark contrast from "Much Ado about Nothing," which was light-hearted and joyful whereas "King Lear" was dark and brooding.

The entire cast was on the stage for nearly the entirety of the play. Those that did not speak would howl and hiss to provide ambience and mood while King Lear slowly goes mad.

The sword fights were graceful and brutal at the same time, leading me to the edge of my seat, because I had no idea what to expect.

Watching these plays was a real thrill, and I strongly encourage anyone to go to next year's show. They will not be disappointed.

Editor in Chief Scott Stewart contributed to this report.

From **BEMIS**: Page 6

professor Kenton Bales, and the UNO Artificial Music Initiative, directed by music professor Tomm Roland, showcased their talents to the local community.

"It's great they were able to represent the department and university in the festival," said Melissa Berke, chair of the UNO music department. "It's an innovative festival."

UNO's internationally renowned dance group The Moving Company also performed with assistance from the Omaha Modern Dance Collective. Both dance groups worked together on three performances and one of them was an interpretation of Statom's "Nascita."

"The whole idea of the festival was to talk about the collaborative process," said Josie Metal-Corbin, the director of The Moving Company. "Modern dance, I think, was a very good match for interpreting the work. We incorporated elements of this piece."

The festival wrapped up Saturday night with musical performances by Shiver Shiver, Bear Country, Columbia vs. Challenger and headlining band Capgun Coup.

For some, this event opened up the Omaha community to more art and culture with high hopes of making the Bemis Creativity Festival an annual event.

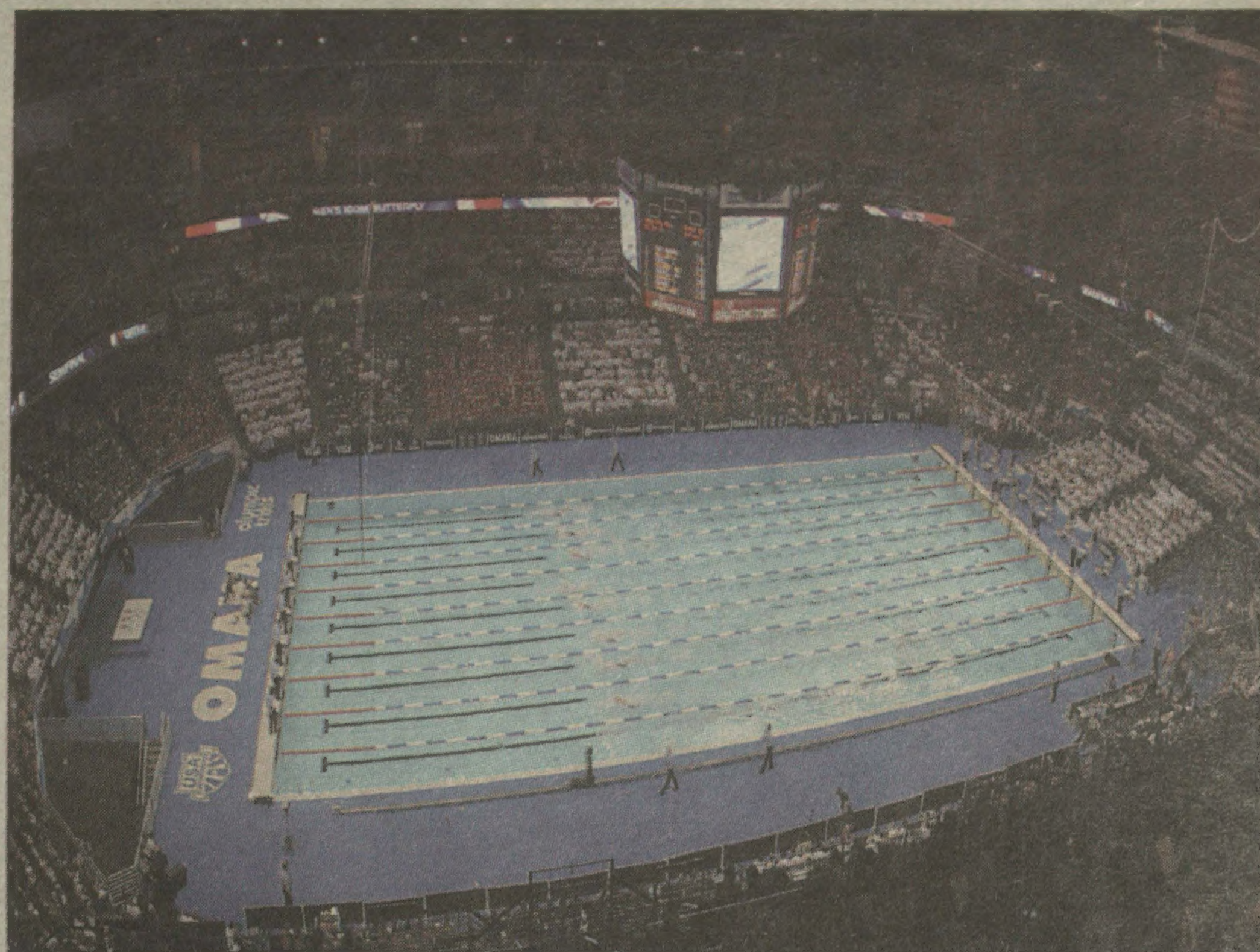
"My visit to the Bemis on Friday was a first for me, and I was very surprised with the vast amount of events and resident artists that come through the center every year," said UNO senior Adam Reidlbach. "I was impressed to see such great works in Omaha and look forward to another visit in the near future."

For more information on future events sponsored by the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, visit bemiscenter.org or call 341-7130.

Culture Editor Andrea Barbe contributed to this report.



# Omaha gets taste of Olympic glory with world records set at swim trials



ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP



Top left: Garrett Weber-Gale waves to the crowd after earning his second gold medal of the meet with an American record winning time of 21.47 in the men's 50 free final. Top right: A patriotic crowd filled the Qwest Center on Independence Day. Left: Dara Torres, at 41-years-old, will be the oldest American swimmer ever in the Olympics. She set the American-record with 24.25 seconds in the 50 finals Sunday at the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials at the Qwest Center. Right: Grand Island native Scott Usher swims in the 200-meter breaststroke Thursday.



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From **CARLIN**: Page 6

In 1972, Carlin had released the comedy album, "Class Clown," which included his "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television." When a New York radio station played part of another bit, "Filthy Words" in 1973, the ensuing lawsuit went to the Supreme Court, cementing Carlin as an anti-establishment icon.

"Language was the real taboo," said Richard Zoglin, author of "Comedy at the Edge: How Stand-Up in the 1970s Changed America" (2008). "He didn't do it to shock people. It was a shock to hear them said on stage, but he was really trying to make a point. Why [do] we fear language? ... There's nothing really bad about these words. They're just words."

Writer-performer Tim Kazurinsky, a Second City and "Saturday Night Live" alumnus, recalled the huge impact that Carlin's work had on him and his contemporaries. "It changes the way you see the world," he recalled from his Chicago-area home. "People forget how racist, how sexist, how conservative America was ... so when you listen to a Lenny Bruce album or a George Carlin album, you were like, 'Oh, my God, I can't believe he just said that.' It makes you a little braver in what you write and what you say."

"He was the product of a cultural revolution, a change in attitudes, of a time frame," said comedian Paul Provenza, who directed Carlin in the 2005 movie, "The Aristocrats." "Whether he's responsible for those changes or a manifestation [of them] is irrelevant because he defined them intellectually, legally and creatively."

Frank Luntz, a Washington, D.C.-based political consultant and pollster known for devising user-friendly phrases for Republicans, such as "death tax," recalled getting a call from Carlin to discuss his use of language. He said they subsequently spent a fair amount of time together without arguing politics, though Carlin did rip "death tax" in a Larry King interview.

"Our attitudes have changed a lot," Luntz said of the country. "We've become more tolerant, but, more important, we've become less outraged. We've come to accept behaviors we would have considered unacceptable 30 years ago. When you listen to George Carlin, he sounds quaint, and Richard Pryor sounds tame, and Lenny Bruce wouldn't even raise an eyebrow."

Still, Carlin's "seven words" retain their power. You certainly won't see them in this newspaper.

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DEADLINE

August 15<sup>th</sup> [noon]

CENTENNIAL  
OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

DEADLINE

August 3<sup>rd</sup> [noon]

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